1873-74.

Baptist Sunday School Association

OF PHILADELPHIA.

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MINUTES

OF

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

OF PHILADELPHIA,

Held in the Meeting-House of the Spring Garden Baptist Church,

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

January 20th, 21st and 22d, 1874.

W. FRED'K SNYDER, - - RECORDING SECRETARY,
N. W. corner Fifth and Green Streets.

FRANK J. CORNMAN, - CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
Saving Fund, S. W. cor. Seventh and Walnut Streets.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM SYCKELMOORE,

No. 506 Minor Street.

1874.

CONSTITUTION.

NAME.

Article I. This organization shall be called the BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION of Philadelphia; auxiliary to the American Baptist Publication Society.

OBJECT.

Article II. The object of this Association shall be to promote by any practicable means the Sunday School cause, as connected with the Baptist churches in the City of Philadelphia.

MEMBERS.

Article III. This Association shall be composed of such Baptist Sunday Schools in this city as shall send a letter and delegates to the annual meeting.

OFFICERS.

Article IV. The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, Treasurer and five Managers. They shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting, and shall together constitute an Executive Board, four of whom shall be a quorum.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Article V. The Executive Board shall execute the instructions of the Association; shall have power to make their own by-laws, call special meetings of the Association, select themes for discussion, appoint speakers and writers, and adopt all the measures necessary to attain the objects of the organization. They shall make a fuil report of all their doings to the Association at its annual meeting. They shall also have power to fill all vacancies in the Board that may occur during the year.

MEETINGS.

Article VI. There shall be an annual meeting of the Association, on the third Tuesday of January, at 2 o'clock, P. M., at which time the letters of the schools, the reports of the Executive Board and Treasurer shall be presented, the officers chosen, and the business of the Association transacted.

Meetings of the Association shall also be held on the second Tuesday evenings of May and September, for devotional exercises and the discussion of subjects bearing on the general interests of the Sunday Schools.

ALTERATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Article VII. Alterations of this Constitution, proposed at a previous annual meeting, or recommended by the Executive Board, may be made at the annual meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present.

BY-LAWS

OF THE

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Article I.—OFFICERS.

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be the officers of the Board

Section 2. The President, or in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at all the meetings of the Board, preserve order and see that the By-Laws are faithfully observed; decide all questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the Board at the request of two members; give the casting vote when the Board is equally divided, and appoint all special Committees unless otherwise provided for.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings of the Board, and perform such other duties as his office may require of him.

Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all necessary correspondence between this and other similar bodies, notify members of the meetings of the Executive Board, and the schools of the meetings of the Association, and perform such other duties as his office may require of him.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall have charge of all the money of the Association, attend to collecting unpaid subscriptions, and pay all bills, taking receipts for the same. He shall keep a correct account of all money received and disbursed by him, report the same to the Board at each stated meeting, and present a full report of the finances for the year at the Annual Meetings of the Association. He shall perform such other duties as his office may require of him.

Article II.—MEETINGS.

Section 1. The Board shall meet bi-monthly on the first Monday in February, April, June, August, October and December, at 4 o'clock, P. M.

Section 2. All the meetings of the Board shall be opened and closed with devotional exercises.

Section 3. The President, at the request of any two members, shall call a special meeting of the Board.

Article III.—COMMITTEES.

Section 1. There shall be appointed from the Board a committee of three on meetings; who shall have entire charge of the arrangements for the meetings of the Association, and adopt all the means necessary to make the same interesting and profitable, subject always to the approval of the Board.

Section 2. The President shall be *ex-officio* a member of the committees of the Board.

Article IV.—ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The following shall be the order of business:—

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Reading Minutes.
3. Report of Treasurer.
4. " Standing Committees.
5. " Special "
6. Unfinished Business.
7. New Business.
8. Devotional Exercises.

Article V.—ALTERATIONS.

These By-Laws shall not be altered or amended, except at a regular meeting of the Board, and by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

OFFICERS FOR 1874.

President,

THOMAS TOLMAN, *Fifth Church.*

Vice Presidents,

HENRY E. LINCOLN, *First Church,*

J. A. STODDART, *Grace Church.*

Corresponding Secretary,

FRANK J. CORNMAN, *Roxborough Church.*

Recording Secretary,

W. FRED'K SNYDER, *Fourth Church.*

Treasurer,

WILLIAM M. SHOEMAKER, *North Church.*

Managers,

*HENRY H. KIMBALL, *First Church.*

WILLIAM H. HARRISON, *First Church, West Phila.*

JAMES BUTTERWORTH, *Second Church.*

CLEMENT B. LOWE, *Gethsemane.*

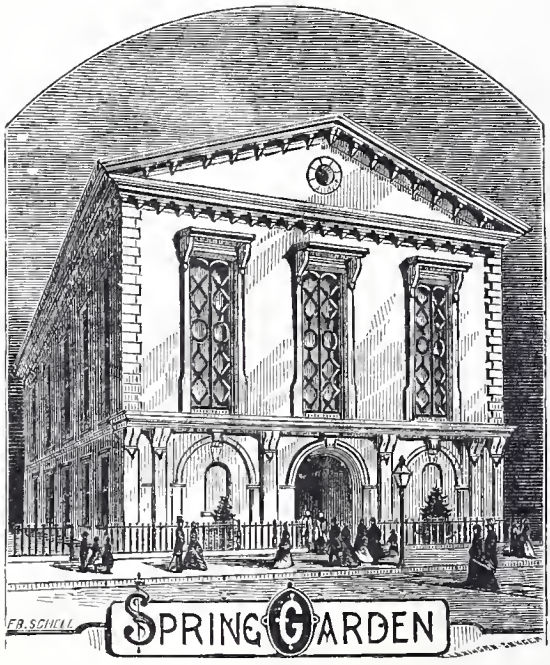
WILLIAM J. TROTH, *Olivet Church.*

*Elected by the Managers to fill vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Thos. J. Mustin.

ANNUAL RECORD AND STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS.

When Organized.	NAME OF SCHOOL.	NAME OF SUPERINDENTENTS.	Teachers and Officers.	Scholars.	Admitted.	Left.	Baptisms.	Deaths	Average Attendance.	Infl. Classes.	Intermedi'te Classes.	Aault Classes.	Teachers' Meetings, How often?	Uniform Lessons?	Volumes in Library.	Mon'y rais'd for School Expenses.	Contrib. to Benevolent Objects.	Money for Minutes.	Money for Expenses.
1815	First Church	T. Brantly Langton	40	263	..	..	2	..	216	1	27	3	Weekly	Yes	1500	$689 59	$188 15	.....	.....
1815	Fifth Church	Thomas Tolman	76	958	..	..	12	5	670	1	36	24	Weekly	Yes	2500	365 00	1016 00	$5 00	$20 00
1816	Second Church	James Butterworth	36	460	..	..	8	3	315	1	25	1	Occasionally	Yes	1000	237 28	345 67	5 00	15 00
1816	Roxborough	W. H. Lewis	31	351	..	..	36	1	300	1	23	1	Weekly	Yes	600	200 00	170 00	2 50	10 00
1818	Blockley	Daniel Deal	25	292	31	12	1	..	125	1	..	..	Monthly	Yes	1450	253 29	.....	1 00	5 00
1818	Third Church	E. J. Kingsland	32	302	42	..	13	2	242	1	15	10	Monthly	Yes	600	793 64	16 00	4 00	10 00
1818	Fourth Church	Wm. H. Longcope	45	520	..	..	20	..	410	1	31	10	Semi-m'thly.	Yes	1510	.....	.....	.....	.....
1830	Spruce Street	F. Wayland Ayer	27	205	..	..	13	..	140	1	20	..	Monthly	Yes	952	340 93	98 00	2 50	7 50
1830	Frankford	Chas. H. Wilson.	34	338	42	8	7	1	201	1	22	5	Monthly	Yes	1100	259 50	70 00	.....	10 00
1833	Milestown	Jacob Rorer	12	89	13	..	6	1	76	1	9	1	Occasionally	Yes	450	292 09	20 00	2 00	5 00
1835	Tenth Church	A. J. Rowland, *Pastor*	50	500	..	..	35	..	350	1	33	4	Weekly	Yes	1350	622 51	394 29	.....	15 00
1840	Twelfth Church*	Charles Halyburton	24	360	..	..	3	..	...	..	..	..	.....	....	500	.....	.....	.....	.....
1841	Calvary	J. H. Parks, *Pastor*	27	250	45	..	..	1	175	1	20	1	Weekly	Yes	800	125 00	25 00	4 00	6 00
1842	Passyunk	Chas. Reichner	18	120	..	..	..	1	48	1	9	3	Monthly	....	250	108 33	.....	2 50	2 50
1843	North Church	Wm. M. Shoemaker	40	603	71	..	1	..	317	1	21	12	Weekly	Yes	875	1006 35	.....	5 00	20 00
1843	Broad Street	Henry Mowrey	48	600	..	..	..	2	375	1	33	4	Monthly	Yes	2000	710 01	210 00	5 00	15 00
1844	First West Philadelphia	W. H. Harrison	47	540	50	37	3	2	325	2	30	4	Weekly	Yes	1300	300 00	900 00	.....	.....
1846	First German	D. Kaiser	36	335	..	..	7	3	300	..	..	..	Monthly	....	.....	397 26	348 21	1 00	.....
1848	Tabernacle	Thomas J. Mustin	45	443	..	..	19	..	265	2	31	7	Semi-m'thly.	Yes	1304	.....	.....	5 00	10 00
1851	Manayunk†	Wm. J. Kerr	26	269	..	..	..	..	187	1	19	1	Weekly	Yes	562	.....	.....	.....	.....
1851	First Germantown	Wm. W. Patton	35	400	..	..	10	..	...	1	25	4	.....	Yes	650	275 00	100 00	2 50	8 00
1851	Nicetown	W. E. Watkinson, *Pastor.*	12	130	..	..	18	..	75	..	..	..	.....	....	350	.....	.....	.....	.....
1853	Falls of Schuylkill	J. S. Swartz	26	275	50	25	10	..	180	1	18	1	Frequently	Yes	1000	236 78	336 37	2 60	10 00
1855	Spring Garden	Chas. D. Moore	37	459	..	..	17	1	299	1	26	5	Monthly	Yes	1120	313 43	311 07	5 00	20 00
1856	Olivet	Wm. J. Troth	40	350	..	..	..	1	225	1	31	..	Monthly	....	1200	430 25	.....	1 00	10 00
1859	Berean	John A. Gendell	24	310	..	..	18	1	...	1	10	9	Semi-m'thly.	Yes	1000	113 30	155 00	2 50	10 00
1859	Mariners' Bethel	M. C. Stafford	19	176	30	36	1	1	125	1	14	2	Weekly	Yes	240	75 00	.....	.....	.....
1865	Boardman Mission	S. F. Hansell	32	373	..	..	7	1	230	1	26	2	.....	Yes	500	200 00	50 00	.....	.....
1866	Second Germantown*	Chas. H. Cummings	37	360	..	..	5	..	...	..	..	..	.....	...	721	.....	.....	.....	.....
1867	Memorial	T. M. Greene	82	613	..	..	37	..	425	1	36	9	Weekly	Yes	819	490 62	876 21	5 00	10 00
1867	Manatawna*	E. H. Latch	14	116	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	.....	....	480	.....	.....	.....	.....
1867	Angora	George Callaghan	22	211	36	12	8	3	138	1	15	2	.....	Yes	556	252 00	188 00	2 00	5 00
1868	Immanuel	James. S. Moore	24	230	..	..	..	..	200	1	18	1	Monthly	Yes	350	320 62	235 44	2 50	.....
1868	German Mission	Lewis Kuenstler	24	160	25	..	..	..	125	8	8	5	Quarterly	Yes	300	.....	77 00	.....	2 00
1868	Third Gemantown*	W. E. S. Baker	25	130	..	..	..	..	70	..	..	..	.....	....	500	.....	.....	.....	.....
1869	Rittenhousetown	(See letter.)	..	...	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	.....	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1870	Pilgrim Mission	Jas. M. Gilbough	17	90	..	..	2	2	77	..	9	4	Semi-m'thly.	Yes	250	.....	.....	.....	.....
1870	Beth Eden*	J. Granville Leach	28	233	..	..	32	..	...	..	..	..	.....	....	650	.....	.....	.....	.....
1870	Wissahickon	F. J. Cornman	23	185	..	..	23	..	140	1	16	2	Weekly	Yes	225	400 00	.....	.....	5 00
1870	Bethesda	John P. Wolf	12	68	45	..	6	3	65	1	5	1	Monthly	No	249	.....	.....	1 50	1 00
1870	Grace Church	John A. Stoddart	31	374	..	..	40	..	280	1	22	3	Quarterly	Yes	375	165 57	50 00	.....	5 00
1870	Olivet Mission	D. H. Wilson	14	175	90	..	..	2	...	1	9	..	Monthly	....	180	172 00	.....	.....	.....
1871	Mantua	John D. Tustin	19	175	..	..	3	1	118	1	11	5	Monthly	Yes	600	41 00	550 00	.....	.....
1872	Hebron*	Chas. F. Barrett	23	116	..	..	3	..	...	..	..	..	.....	....	167	.....	.....	.....	.....
1872	Gethsemane	J. W. Stout	34	789	..	..	31	..	‡598	1	20	7	Monthly	Yes	775	565 97	.....	3 50	15 00
1873	Fiftieth Church	J. J. Brooks.	26	407	..	..	5	..	138	1	12	3	Weekly	Yes	.....	295 00	.....	2 00	3 00
	TOTALS		1401	14713	570	130	467	38	8556	55	742	156	.....	....	34359	10947 32	$6730 41	74 60	254 50

* In October 1873. † Last year's report. ‡ For past three months, see letter.



SPRING GARDEN BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE,

REV. W. M. LAWRENCE, PASTOR.

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION.

MINUTES.

PHILADELPHIA, *Tuesday, January 20th*, 1874.

1. The Eighth Annual Session of the Association convened in the Spring Garden Baptist Meeting House, this afternoon, at 2½ o'clock, and was called to order by first Vice-President, Thomas Tolman.

2. Hymn No. 723 of the Psalmist was sung, "Soldiers of Christ arise," and prayer was offered by Rev. I. D. King, of Chestnut Hill; after which, hymn 338, "All hail the power of Jesus' name," was sung.

3. The Moderator announced the necessary absence of the President, Bro. Dennisson, on account of Providential hindrances. He then referred to the object and the achievements of the Association with which he has been connected from its organization. In its annual gatherings for the mutual interchange of counsels and experiences, in the public assemblages of the schools, in the papers which had been prepared for its meetings, he felt sure the influence of the Association has been and would continue to be a power not easily to be estimated, in forwarding the usefulness of our Sunday schools.

4. The following brethren were named by the chair as a Committee to nominate the Board of Officers for the coming year:—

Charles H. Banes, Second Church; W. W. Patton, First Germantown; and J. A. Gendell, Berean Church.

5. Commenced the reading of letters from the schools, beginning with the Spring Garden Church school.

6. The school of the Fifth Church asked that, at the close of the reading of their letter, the Association would offer prayer specially in their behalf. The Moderator invited Rev. W. B. Tolan, of Angora, to lead the meeting in prayer.

7. Report of the Nominating Committee was presented and accepted.

8. On motion of A. H. Shott, of Broad Street Church, the Secretary was authorized to cast the vote of the Association for the ticket as nomiated. (See list printed on a previous page.)

9. Resumed reading of letters, concluding with one from the school of the Fiftieth Church, organized since our last session.

10. The Report of the Treasurer was presented and referred to an Auditing Committee, consisting of H. H. Kimball, of the First Church, and A. H. Shott.

11. Voted that the hand of fellowship be this evening given by the President to the delegates of new schools.

12. Committee appointed on "Digest of letters and state of the schools," to report on Thursday evening, viz. Henry E. Lincoln, First Church; J. A. Stoddart, Grace Church.

13. After singing, and prayer by Rev. W. M. Lawrence, the meeting adjourned.

Benediction by Rev. W. B. Tolan.

Tuesday Evening, January 20th.

14. Re-assembled at 7.30. Called to order by the President, Thomas Tolman, of the Fifth Church. Sung 610 hymn, "Come thou fount," &c., psalm 105 was read, and J. W. Stout, of Gethsemane Church, led in prayer.

15. Letters from the schools were called for; none presented.

16. The Auditing Committee reported upon the Treasurer's accounts.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

WM. M. SHOEMAKER, *Treasurer,*

IN ACCOUNT WITH

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA.

DR.

To cash received from the Association	$357 80

CR.

By Balance from 1873	$32 37	
By Theo. Hermann, (Band)	61 00	
By Rent, Horticultural Hall	50 00	
By Wm. Syckelmoore, (printing)	121 75	
By Recording Secretary, (postage, etc.)	2 25	
By Wm. Syckelmoore, (printing)	5 00	
		$272 37
Balance in Treasury		85 43

Philadelphia, January 20th, 1874.

We have examined the above and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

H. H. KIMBALL,
A. H. SHOTT.

17. The Report of the Executive Board was read by the Recording Secretary, and ordered entered upon the Minutes.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Conforming to the custom of previous years, the Executive Board report concerning the closing year.

The regularly appointed meetings of the Association have been held as heretofore: in May with the School at Broad and Brown streets, where the attendance was a decided improvement upon the corresponding meeting of the previous year, and the exercises, though the programme of the Committee was not fully carried out, were calculated to encourage and stimulate teachers in their work.

The September meeting was held in the North Church, which was completely filled. Rev. David Spencer read an essay on "the supplementary work of the the Sunday school teacher." The leading thought of the essayist was, not simply or chiefly the *conversion* of the scholars to Christ, but a watchful training and education for the *development of a complete christian character.*

While we are conscious of large room for improvement, and that much is yet to be done to bring our schools to a proper standing, we believe the past year has been one of progress.

Some of the schools stand aloof from our oganization and seem to question its utlity or advantage, but the majority are warmly enlisted in its favor, and

from some have come expressions of grateful mention f the quickening influence it has already exerted upon them; and after a trial of eight years, we are more than ever persuaded that a door of usefulness is open to us, into a field needing cultivation, and which is occupied by no other agency or organization.

We need a much higher estimate of the teacher's work and influence, and a more thorough study and preparation on the part of the teachers. How to awaken a deeper interest and incite to a more diligent and careful preparation on the part of those who undertake to instruct, is one of the most important questions connected with the Sunday school work. The international lessons and the teacher's meetings for the study of the same are doing much in this direction; what more can be done? We suggest the query, others may work out the answer.

Several meetings of a general Sunday school character have been held during the year, under the direction of the Committee on Meetings; Frankford, Milestown, Grace Church, Spring Garden and Chestnut Hill, have been thus visited, and the meetings have been attended with good results; the schools with which they have been held have felt the sympathy and cheer of the Association, and the members of the Board have been brought into a closer personal acquaintance and association with them. We trust that during the coming year these gatherings may be still more frequent and yield a return of an hundred fold.

18. The Moderator, in behalf of the Association, gave the hand of welcome to Bro. Elmer, the delegate from the Fiftieth Church school.

BIBLE SCHOOL SESSION.

19. According to programme arrangements, the Bible school session was now held, Henry H. Kimball, of First Church school, Superintendent. That portion of the audience occupying the pews, in the body of the house, was formed into eight classes, to which teachers were assigned. The Superintendent gave out hymn 511, and read the Scripture lesson. Prayer was offered by Rev. W. M. Lawrence. Lesson for the evening was that appointed for Sunday, Jan. 25th, subject, "Doubts Removed." Twenty minutes were devoted to class exercise; at the close of the study, the Superintendent suggested two or three practical lessons drawn from the subject under consideration; hymn 737 was sung, and the school exercise closed.

20. The President resuming the chair, the remainder of the evening was occupied with criticism on the preceding exercise, and suggestions upon Bible Class Teaching, in which Brethren T. Tolman, W. M. Shoemaker of North Church; H. H. Kimball;

,A. H. Shott, W. M. Lawrence, P. Dudley and C. D. Moore, of Spring Garden Church ; S. Flanagan, J. W. Stout and J. N. Patterson, of Gethsemane ; H. E. Lincoln and Abraham Kimball, of First Church ; and —— Elmer, participated.

21. After singing the 740th hymn, Rev. W. M. Larwence pronounced the benediction and the Association adjourned.

CHILDREN'S MASS MEETING.

Wednesday Afternoon, January 21st.

The annual gathering of the schools was held in the Academy of Music, Broad and Locust streets. A very disagreeble rain storm during the early part of the day, seemed to promise a failure for this meeting. The fears thus excited were, however, dispelled, by the assembling of probably over two thousand children and friends, at the appointed hour, when the exercises, as previously arranged, were successfully carried out, according to the following

PROGRAMME.

OVERTURE.....Theo. Hermann's Satterlee Band.
CHORUS, "Happy Songs,".....By the Children.
PRAYER.....By Rev. J. H. Parks.
CHORUS, "Mighty Rock,".....By the Children.
ADDRESS.....Rev. George Cooper.
CHORUS, "When we all get home,".....By the Children.
ADDRESS.....Rev. David Spencer.
MUSIC.....Band.
CHORUS, "Jasper Sea,".....By the Children.
ADDRESS.....Rev. J. B. Falkner.
CHORUS, "Shall we meet," etc.....By the Children.
DOXOLOGY.....
BENEDICTION.....

Wednesday Evening, January 21st, 7½ o'clock.

22. The Association re-assembled ; the choir opened the exercises with an anthem, "Lift up your heads ;" the congregation sang the hymn "Grace 'tis a charming sound." The President read a short psalm, and Rev. A. J. Rowland of Tenth Church, led in prayer.

23. It was voted that further reading of letters be dispensed with, but all letters received be reported in the minutes.

24. Rev. L. B. Hartman, of Grace Church, was introduced and read an essay upon "The Incentives to Sunday School Work."

25. After the singing of 317th hymn, Rev. P. L. Jones, of the Boardman Mission, read an essay on "The Teacher's Recompense."

26. Sung hymn 740, "Sow in the morn thy seed," and discussion followed, upon the topics presented in the essays. Revs. H. L. Wayland, editor of the *National Baptist*; G. D. Boardman, of the First Church; A. J. Rowland, of the Tenth Church; E. C. Romine, of the Fiftieth Church; and P. L. Jones, of Boardman Mission; and Brethren Kimball, Moore, and Lincoln, took part in the discussion.

27. Adjourned after prayer and benediction by Brother Lawrence.

Thursday Evening, January 22d.

28. The session was opened with a "Voluntary" by the choir, silent invocation of God's blessing, singing of hymn 645 of Psalmist, reading of part of fourteenth chapter of John, and prayer by Brother Joseph Bucknell, of Gethsemane.

29. Report of Committee on Letters and the State of the schools was read, and ordered to be entered on the Minutes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE LETTERS FROM THE SCHOOLS.

Up to the hour of preparing this paper, twenty-nine schools only have reported by letters to the Association, so that this statement will have reference to but about one-half the schools of our denomination in the city.

The statistics of these twenty-nine schools, (all, with one exception, being church schools) present the following aggregate:—

Number of Officers and Teachers	988
Number of Scholars	10,708
Number of Baptisms	333
Number of Deaths	32
Raised for Benevolence	$5370.45
Raised for School Expenses	$9387.33

Compared with the report of the same schools for the the previous year, we find an *increase* of

Teachers and Officers	63
Scholars	1,141
Baptisms	73
Money raised for the Schools	$564.27

And a *decrease* in

Number of Deaths.....20
Amounts raised for benevolent objects.....$2143.84

A falling off in this latter item of 30 per cent.

Included in this statement is the return of one new school organized as the "North Star Mission," in February last, which has rapidly developed into a church school, now reporting, 26 teachers and officers, 407 scholars, 5 baptisms, and 295 dollars raised for school expenses. It being the custom of many of the schools to raise among themselves the amount necessary for their own support, the contributions to this fund are perhaps as strictly benevolent contributions as those secured for mission work elsewhere: thus considered, the united amounts reach the sum of 14,757 dollars and 78 cents.

We cannot, however, refrain from asking, whether it would not be on the whole better, *for the churches, as such,* to provide the funds to sustain their own schools, as a legitimate part of their regular expense, and appropriate to denominational benevolent enterprises the money that may be raised in the schools? Our pupils need, not only an education in the duty and privilege of giving, but an acquaintance with the operations of our denomination in its various enterprises and organizations for the spread of truth and righteousness.

One school, the Rittenhousetown Mission school, has been discontinued, owing to the extension of Fairmount Park, and the consequent removal of the mills which furnished employment for the families represented in the schools.

One new school has just been started by the Blockley Church, at Sixty-third and Vine Streets, with cheering prospects.

Two schools speak of the past year as specially a time of "seed sowing;" one or two, as a "year of harvesting;" while fourteen report the blessed presence of reviving influence at this time, and the beginning of the "feast of ingathering;" and we have been proving in our session how "he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

The letters from all the schools are brief; yet as we note their tidings, we are reminded of the brief but glorious glad tidings announced on Judea's plains, bringing "glory to God in the highest; on earth peace, good will to man," and we bless our heavenly Father for the tokens of His favor which have been enjoyed, for the witness here given to the faithfulness of His hand, and for the still cheering and unfailing assurance "your labor shall not be in vain in the Lord."

HENRY E. LINCOLN,
J. A. STODDART, } *Committee.*

30 Voted that the Recording Secretary attend to the printing and distribution of the Minutes.

31. Voted that the Essayists of last evening be requested to furnish a copy of their essays for publication in the Minutes.

32. The thanks of the Association were voted to the Spring Garden Church, for the use of their house.

33. Brother Shoemaker suggested a modification of the Constitution, so as to have the Anniversary Meetings occur in May instead of January; voted to refer the subject to the Executive Board.

34. The business of the Association being concluded, a pleasant and refreshing season was spent in devotional exercises, Brethren Elmer, Sherburne and Scott, of Spring Garden; Bucknell; Stout, Turland, and Lawrence, of Gethsemane, participating.

35. After a few closing words by the President, followed by the apostolic benediction, the Eighth Session of the Association was declared adjourned.

W. FRED'K SNYDER,
Recording Secretary.

ABSTRACTS OF THE LETTERS FROM THE SCHOOLS.

FIRST CHURCH, ... T. B. Langton, Sup't

Owing to the repairs on the sanctuary their school was suspended for a season, and on reässembling their numbers were reduced, but they are now steadily increasing. "Have experienced a peculiar and blessed privilege in the study of the international lessons."

FIFTH CHURCH, ... Thomas Tolman, Sup't.

Are just in the midst of a blessed harvest, and the voice of the young convert is heard giving glory to God.

ROXBOROUGH, ... Wm. H. Lewis, Sup't.

"Our school is prosperous; pastor, officers and teachers are working harmoniously together. Some of the seed sown has apparently taken root and produced fruit. Thirty-six have been buried with Christ in baptism."

SECOND CHURCH, ... James Butterworth, Sup't.

Having sold and vacated their former church property, have for six months been in a somewhat disorganized condition, meeting in the second and third stories of a public hall; they are now hoping soon to enter their new schoolroom. They report, however, tokens of divine favor: eight have been baptized.

BLOCKLEY, ... Daniel Deal, Sup't.

The school has advanced in interest and numbers during the past year, the increase on their roll being *fifty-two*. Have just "organized a mission school under favorable circumstances at the corner of Sixty-third and Vine streets."

THIRD CHURCH, ... E. J. Kingsland, Sup't.

"With devout gratitude we report an increased number of teachers, with increasing zeal, punctuality and efficiency; also a large increase in the number of scholars and quite an unusual number of conversions."

FOURTH CHURCH, ... W. H. Longcope, Sup't.

No letter.

SPRUCE ST. CHURCH, ... F. W. Ayer, Sup't.

"The entire school has been reörganized, a number of new features introduced, and by active and persistent effort we hope to add largely to our membership during the coming year. Perfect harmony prevails; pastor, officers and

teachers working earnestly together. Have indications of the spirit's presence. Our motto for the year is "Jesus only."

FRANKFORD, ... Chas. H. Wilson, Sup't.

During the latter part of the year have enjoyed precious proofs of the divine presence. Some have confessed Christ, and several are inquiring the way to life. A missionary society has been organized, principally under the control of the scholars. The society contemplates supporting a Burman youth while being educated for a christian teacher.

NICETOWN, ... Jacob Rorer, Sup't.

The believing prayers of the teachers have been answered by the visits of the Holy Spirit, and six, having put on Christ in public baptism, are now happy workers in the school. The school is in a flourishing condition.

TENTH CHURCH, ... A. J. Rowland, Sup't.

Have been much encouraged during the year. School has increased in numbers and interest. Thirty-five have been baptized, and now many are anxiously inquiring the way of life.

TWELFTH CHURCH, ...

No letter.

CALVARY, ... J. H. Parks, Sup't.

During the early part of the year the school languished, the church being without a pastor. Now under the leadership of their pastor, teachers and scholars are coming up to their work, and all feel cheered. New classes are organized almost every week; have just organized an adult class under care of one of the deacons.

Have adopted the international lessons, and blackboard exercises.

PASSYUNK, ... Charles Riechner, Sup't.

"Have sessions morning and afternoon; the morning session always devoted to the lesson, afternoon exercises varied. We are earnestly endeavoring to train our scholars for their life's work. Have had a good school, more particularly in the last part of the year."

NORTH CHURCH, ... W. M. Shoemaker, Sup't

"The year has been a season of sowing rather than reaping, having but one sheaf garnered for the Lord. At the present time we have some seeking Jesus, and three have recently made a public profession and now await baptism."

Though without a pastor for nearly a year, the teachers have been faithful and the scholars regular in their attendance.

BROAD ST. CHURCH, ... Henry Mowrey, Sup't.

"Unity and good feeling exist among us, and a growing desire for the salvation of those committed to our care. Have endeavored, after careful prepara-

tion, to present the truth to the minds of our scholars, and have reason to hope that the seed sown will bring forth fruit to the glory of God."

FIRST, WEST PHILADELPHIA, ... W. H. Harrison, Sup't.

Report a year of prosperity; during the past few weeks a deep, but very quiet work of grace has been in progress; many are seeking Christ, and quite a number await baptism. "Our school is diligent in exhibiting a missionary spirit, and contributions have been very liberal. Have maintained during the year a weekly teachers' normal class and find it a means of enjoyment and profit. Have formed the nucleus of what we hope will grow into a flourishing adult school."

FIRST GERMAN CHURCH, ... D. Kaiser, Sup't.

"The blessed spirit of God has been at work among our scholars, and we have enjoyed showers of divine blessing. Some have been gathered into the fold, others await baptism, and many are asking the way to Jesus. Have a monthly prayer-meeting which is attended by the Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

TABERNACLE CHURCH, ... Thos. J. Mustin, Sup't.

No letter.

MANAYUNK, ...

No letter.

FIRST GERMANTOWN, ... W. W. Patton, Sup't.

The past has been "a year of seed sowing rather than of reaping, but God has kept our vineyard in safety. Out of a school numbering four hundred there has been but *one death*. We hope this saving of our flock is indicative of God's purpose of mercy, that He has spared us all that we may all become the friends of Jesus."

NICETOWN, ... W. E. Watkinson, Sup't.

No letter.

FALLS OF SCHUYLKILL, ... J. S. Swartz, Sup't.

"We thank God for the work He has permitted us to do in the past year, and are encouraged, because His blessing has accompanied our efforts. The school has increased in number and in attendance. Ten of the scholars were baptized and united with the church. Just now there are visible signs of the Holy Spirit's presence with us, and we are praying that all who are unsaved, may early be led to accept of Jesus their Saviour.

SPRING GARDEN CHURCH, ... C. D. Moore, Sup't.

"We have been working quietly and steadily, and looking prayerfully and patiently for the fruits of our labor. Evidences of God's favor have been scattered all along through the year, and tokens of special revival now cheer our hearts, in both church and school. Death visited us once and removed our

oldest scholar, nearly eighty years of age. Our attendance is increasing and special earnestness seems to characterise all officers and teachers."

OLIVET CHURCH, ... W. J. Troth, Sup't.

"Our school shows some increase in numbers, and the interest manifested is a source of encouragement to faithful teachers. The seed sown in weakness, by the blessing of Him who is strength in weakness, shows signs of harvest, and numbers of our scholars are asking "what must I do to be saved?"

MOUNT ZION CHURCH, ...

(Is making arragements for union with Hebron Church and school.)

BEREAN CHURCH, ... John A. Gendell, Sup't.

"Our school is in a very prosperous condition; we have been greatly blessed. A very deep and absorbing interest is manifested in the lessons. We have a large average attendance, and the number of converted young people in our ranks is greater than usual, so that we can report most emphatically, that our labor has not been in vain in the Lord. Our pastor is aiding us, not only by his presence, but also in teaching a large and interesting adult class. Two of our young men are at the Lewisburg University, being trained for the ministry, and give good promise of usefulness."

BETHEL CHURCH, ... M. C. Stafford, Sup't.

Precious tokens of rich blessing near at hand gladden the hearts of the teachers.

"We are looking for the great tidal-wave of salvation to roll in upon us and carry upon its crest many of our scholars to the haven of rest in the love of Jesus. All is laid upon the altar, and we are waiting, watching, hoping, praying; yes, and believing, that what we ask for we shall receive. Our numbers are not so great as last year, the number dropped being greater than received, but our school is *healthy*, for God is with us.

BOARDMAN MISSION of First Church, .. S. F. Hansell, Sup't.

No letter.

SECOND GERMANTOWN, ... C. H. Cummings, Sup't.

No letter.

MEMORIAL, ... J. M. Greene, Sup't.

"Our school is in the most prosperous condition, and our efforts to promote the cause of Christ have not been unrewarded. A normal class for the study of the lesson is held every Tuesday evening, under the instruction of our pastor. From our own experience, we are fully convinced that this is one of the best modes of securing successful teachers."

ANGORA, ... Geo. Callaghan, Sup't.

Notwithstanding we have not been faithful to our trust, we are not without some tokens of heavenly favor. We are praying, "O Lord revive thy work."

IMMANUEL MISSION of First Church, ... J. S. Moore, Sup't.

The teachers are greatly encouraged in their work; the desert is beginning to bud, and they hopefully wait for the blossoms and the fruit.

The general order of the school is good, and a serious and respectful attention is given to the instructions of the teachers. A weekly prayer-meeting is held in their chapel, and for several weeks past preaching on the Sabbath evening, and the meetings are well attended.

THIRD GERMANTOWN. .. .. .. W. E. S. Baker, Sup't.

No letter.

PILGRIM MISSION of Tabernacle Church, .. J. M. Gilbough, Sup't.

No letter.

WISSAHICKON MISSION of Roxborough Church, F. J. Cornman, Sup't.

"Have enjoyed in large measure God's goodness; His Holy Spirit has not passed us by; precious souls have been brought to Jesus. Twenty-three have been baptised, and others wait thus to follow Jesus. A system of rewards in our school contributes greatly to its prosperity. Our children are thus encouraged to be in *constant attendance*, to *bring in new scholars*, and to *commit to memory verses of Scripture every Sabbath.*"

BETHESDA CHURCH, ... John P. Wolf, Sup't

"Since your last meeting the Lord has been with us, and is still cheering our hearts in our good work and adding many new scholars. Our heavenly Parent laid His afflicting hand on one of our brethren and took from his household four of his children, three of whom were in the school. This affliction touched the hearts of many, and six of our scholars put their trust in the Saviour, and have been baptized."

GRACE CHURCH, ... J. A. Stoddart, Sup't.

Pastor and teachers are in earnest. Report forty baptisms, no deaths, a number now earnest inquirers, and they pray that these may soon pass from death unto life.

MANTUA, ... John D. Tustin, Sup't.

No letter.

GETHSEMANE, ... J. W. Stout, Sup't.

"We entered the lecture room of our new house, September 28th, last; held our first regular session, October 5th, with an attendance of five hundred and forty-nine. This has been constantly increasing, already taxing the capacity of our house. Largest attendance six hundred and seventy-two. Our infant department is especially delightful, as many as one hundred and seventy-six little ones having been present at a session. Library books are distributed in the morning, thereby inducing a larger attendance at the morning preaching service."

RITTENHOUSETOWN MISSION of Roxborough Church, ...

The pastor says: "Owing to the useless extension of the Park along the Wissahickon, necessitating the removal of the mills and residences, this mission school has been compelled to suspend for a time. Preaching is maintained once a month. An adult Bible class is taught on the Sabbath when there is no preaching, and prayer-meeting is kept up every week."

MANATAWNA, ...

No letter.

OLIVET MISSION, ... D. H. Wilson, Sup't.

No report.

HEBRON. .. ..

[This school is just uniting with the Mount Zion, and will hereafter embrace in its report the two schools, under this present or some new name. The pastor of the Hebron is expected to take charge of the united interests.]

GERMAN MISSION of the First German Church, Lewis Kuenstler, Sup't.

"Although we can report no baptisms, we have reason to believe the Lord is working in our midst, and we praise Him for what He has done."

FIFTIETH CHURCH, ... Jas. J. Brooks, Sup't.

This school sends it first letter as follows: "We are happy to greet you for the first time. The mission out of which the Fiftieth or Jubilee Sunday school has grown, was started February 23d, 1873, at the corner of Susquehanna Ave. and Lawrence Street, by Rev. E. C. Romine. On the first Sunday there were present forty scholars and six teachers. We now have as high as three hundred present. Our motto is *one thousand by the Centennial.* In place of a library, we have distributed religious papers each Sunday. We have a very promising infant school which uses the leaflets on the international lessons and "Our Little Ones." Our chapel at Seventh and Susquehanna Ave., was dedicated September 7th, when we had fifty-one new scholars; some in the school have hardly missed a Sabbath since it began. The chapel is already too small. The Holy Spirit has been present and some have found a precious Saviour."

ADDRESSES.

INCENTIVES TO SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

BY REV. L. B. HARTMAN.

As every science has its own appliances, so every work of man has its own incentives. As a general rule, the world's "workers" or "men of deeds," push in directions holding out the greatest inducements. Hence the thoroughfares of wealth are crowded with multitudes in eager haste to seize its treasures—the temple of fame is thronged with busy feet and fevered heads, aching to wear her immortal wreaths. Every secular position—every lucrative calling is sought by armies of applicants, each one waiting for his turn to a situation, from the President of our country down to the "bearers of burdens and the hewers of timber." Man's life is greatly made up of incentives. They are the springs of his actions and the sculptors of his character.

Unless we indulge in a hope contrary to the philosophy of life, we may expect to gain Sunday school workers, only by giving attention to the inducements it holds out, and the incentives by which it invites the laborer into its vineyard. These, I believe, if properly known and appreciated, would arouse the slothful, and harness much latent power, and marshall to the Sunday school field, hosts of living forces which lie dormant, if not quite dead, in all our churches to day.

This is what we want—what the churches of Christ need, and what the age preëminently demands. If incentives lead the multitudes—if they turn the destinies of men—of fortunes—of society and even of nations—a fact we all must admit—how important to learn that the destiny of the Sunday school is *inseparable* from her motives to Sunday school work—that her brightest future lies buried with her ever unfolding and increasing incentives to toil and energetic labor, stirring and actuating the hearts of her votaries.

The first incentive to Sunday school work I shall notice springs out of the *relative position of the Sunday school and the family* in their relation to the human race.

The family is an institution of divine ordination, and as such it is the stronghold of society, and has to do with every question of the race. In this the children cannot be ignored; every question of the race involves them as really as it does the family; from the very circumstances of their being, the two are inseparable in this relation—the children are but the army of recruits reïnforcing and fortifying the stronghold of society.

Upon this rock—this strong bulwark of the race of man, the Sunday school plants her colors. He who cannot here find a reason justifying Sunday school labor—an inspiration to quicken his philanthropy—a flame to light his torch of ambition, and a girdle to bind up his inner life forces and energies to "deeds of noble daring," must be as dead to the instincts of noblest manhood as he is blind to the highest destiny of the race.

To the true philanthropist the question must ever recur: "What shall we do with the children?" It comes up and nothing can smother it down. We live in an age of fertile thought—an age that places the living coal amid the fuses of the world's artilleries, and the hot shell into old fogyism, antediluvian notions and fossilized forms— an age of vigor, life, youth and spirit, where the relations of childhood are more and more distinctly drawn and recognized—an age whose brightest future hopefully turns toward the Sunday school as she hangs her richest garlands on the brow of promising youth.

The noblest philanthropy of the age turns its energies toward the children and the Sunday school. A writer of some note once said, "Let me make the songs of the nation, and I care not who makes her laws." May we not with equal confidence assert—let the Sunday schools of a nation hold her children's hearts, and we care not who makes her songs. Are not the moral principles and the lessons taught in these schools more powerful than song, and mightier than legislative enactments? How true that in the face of Senators and law-making dignitaries, society staggers under the blighting curse of vice, intemperance and crime, and our jails, penitentiaries and hospitals are more than filled with its unfortunate victims. Might we not humbly hope that if the children of our land were all given to these schools and through them to Christ, in fifty years our country would be purified of crime—foreign immigration alone excepted?

This relation becomes yet more interesting, and perhaps important, when we notice that the essential position of children in society is that of a common channel of heart inter-communication and sympathy.

Some men's hearts can be reached only through the eye; others through the ear, as by music; others again only through the palate, you must give them food or drink; and yet others only through feeling, as by the rod of correction, or the penalty of law. Thus society is divided up; all are not alike susceptible. Some hearts lie quite beyond your reach, through any of the above avenues. But when you come to *the children*, you reach a channel of common feeling, where all are susceptible. Yonder is a wicked man, debased and hardened in sin,—no ordinary appeal can reach him—but touch his child, and you lay hold on his heart. Here alone, *through his child*, where his tenderest affection and

his pride are lodged, you meet him on *his own level*, where you can do him good.

This man may talk indifferently of poetry, music or science, but not so of the *morals* and the *destiny* of his child; though himself debased and hardened, he has a deep interest in all that would save his child to virtue and happiness. Hence, through this last remaining susceptibility of human nature, viz., an *in-born* and *indestructible respect* for *virtue* and *goodness*, the Sunday school, through the children, lays hold on the stalwart heart of man, to lead him to Christ. To this last remaining instrumentality, found in the most distant frontiers, in all the realm of *means*, thousands owe their salvation to-day.

Secondly. Perhaps another and superior class of incentives springs out of the *relation of the children to the Church of Christ.*

When Jesus would teach the way of his kingdom, he took a child for his text. Mirabeau, when asked how popular liberties should be taught, replied, "Begin with the babe in his cradle, and let the first words his lips utter be George Washington, the Father of his country." If such be the relation of children to our free institutions, &c., what must it be towards our holy religion, the Church of the Redeemer?

If in fifty years hence our temples shall be thronged with worshippers, our mission fields be cultivated, and the machinery of the world's evangelization carried forth, *the children must do it.* The most sanguine hope of the church thus looks toward the children, and necessarily turns toward the Sunday schools of the world. Rest assured, then, that no exaggeration of ours can over-estimate the incentives to so great a work.

If it be the mission of the church to evangelize society, she dare not ignore the children. Convert the young—put Christ into the hearts of the children, and you carry Christ into the very heart of the *family*, the fountain head of society. When the Son of God entered upon his work in Cana of Galilee, "His beginning of miracles and manifestations of glory" were in the midst of the social relations of the family. Here, for the first time, he permits his divinity to shine through his humanity, exhibiting the glory of his nature, and excellency of his mission. He would restore the race, by correcting its fountain-head—by planting his standard in the midst of its strongholds; and the church to-day, as she turns, with ever increasing interest toward the children, and therefore toward the family centres of society, is but turning more and more toward the "beginning place" of her Glorious Founder. Nor can she in this be mistaken, as history demonstrates that church prosperity or increase is largely measured by a proportionate *attention to the children.*

Christianity does a great work when it restores and saves an old sinner,—mangled with sin and petrified in iniquity. But if the church would show the world the rarer beauty and power of her religion—what it can do for a soul, and what fruits it can produce, despite the ruin of the fall—she must go to the Sunday school and seize fresh and pure childhood, before it is marred and fossilized by crime. Here she must harness new thought—bring out new life forces—new brain power—new and fresh energies, and youthful sprightliness; here she

must lay hold of young and superior working material to form the pure and glorious church, "having neither spot nor wrinkle," and teeming with the precious fruits of youthful piety, ripening into the rich experience of happy old age.

All future achievements of the church involve Sunday school work. Nothing appertaining to the race of man is progress, if it leave the *children behind.* The church's hope hanging on the lip of prophecy—the wheel of progress revolving toward the "good time coming," all turn hopefully toward *the children*, and the *Sunday school.* Save the children and you save the world. Childhood redeemed is the Millenium.

This hope of the church is beautifully described by the prophet Isaiah, ii, 6; "The wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and fatling together, *and a little child shall lead them.*" If in prophetic metaphor the evils of the world are here represented as subdued, and the contrary elements of society as harmonized under the triumphs of the church, then we cannot but feel the force of the inference, that in all this the church is led by the little child, *the symbol of the Sunday School.* Whatever of moral conquest there is in store for the church or the world, the Sunday school must lead. The philanthropist, the patriot, or the world's proud hero, must soon, for his highest achievements, turn to this field.

The Sunday school moves out on the very frontiers of human nature, and where it goes the church follows. All honor to Sunday school workers. Ye stand out on the extreme advance of the world's progress; ye lay the axe at the very root of the tree of evil; ye put the power of right on the shaft of the wheel of progress; ye apply the Archimedian lever that moves the world. Oh! work on, toil on, prayerfully, diligently, and with untiring zeal, and ever gather incentives and inspiration from the noble grandeur of your work and the hope which lures you on to glorious and divine achievement, and when your "toiling and weeping" are o'er, may ye return from many a well fought field with rejoicing, bringing your sheaves with you.

THE TEACHER'S RECOMPENSE.

BY REV. P. L. JONES.

We are none of us insensible to the influence of reward. On the plane of the world's life we are constantly looking forward to the prizes we may win; and we sometimes fix our gaze on the crown of righteousness, that in the hereafter we hope shall be given, as the recompense of a well-fought fight. We are sometimes told that we ought to act independently of this influence; that we ought to work for right and for work's own sake. But we cannot, I think, withou wholly doing violence to the nature with which God has endowed us. Even our Lord, "For the joy that was set before him, endured the cross;" and the apostle

Paul was cheered on his way, by a glance, now and then, at the incorruptible wreath he hoped to obtain at the end of his course.

It were a very selfish life that should be influenced wholly by the hope of reward; it were certainly a most unnatural one that should not be moved at all thereby. It may not be then without practical value, or without real encouragement to some disheartened worker, that we speak to-night of the Teacher's Recompense. There are times when it is as legitimate to speak to the soldier of the reward for gallantry, as of the demands of duty.

Notice *First*, then, *the teacher's subjective recompense*—that which he gains in himself, as the result of his work. We use the present tense, we say gains; for we by no means believe that all our reward is to come by and by, in one grand overwhelming bestowal. We gain it as we go. The Lord of the vineyard gives to each his penny, at the close of his day's work; a penny that is an inspiration in the present and a prophecy of the future.

This comes in part from the *consciousness* of doing a noble manly and womanly work. And most assuredly the Sunday school teacher is doing such a work. If we regard the secular instructor, as employed in a work scarce second to none, then surely we must look at the one who would guide the soul into spiritual things and lead it heavenward, as engaged in a most noble calling. It is grand and noble to chisel the block of marble into the shapely and beautiful statue; it is grander still to be the means of re-forming the soul in the image of God. And the consciousness of doing this is no mean recompense. The consciousness of having in a loving, tender, faithful way, tried to implant Christly principles and the Christly spirit in a half-score or more of loving, immortal natures, is in itself a very precious reward. It brings a glow to the cheek, and an exultation to the heart, to which the selfish worldling is a stranger, and which many a monarch might envy. The consciousness of doing something noble and true for God and humanity, forms no small part of the elements of the highest life, and no mean portion of its reward. We mean no self-conceited, exaggerated conception of one's work, but the simple manly recognition that *he has done what he could.*

In the *consciousness* that he is *working for the future*, too, the teacher has a recompense. He works not alone for present results, but also for future development. His horizon is no narrow, confined one. He has the "long look ahead," which is in a sense, the sign and reward of greatness. He seeks to have the boys or girls under his charge, become true christian men and women, helpers in the church, and conservers of the state: yea he looks beyond the here to the hereafter,—even to the city that is very far off—and labors that his charge may be among the ransomed, when the Lord shall make up his jewels. Looking thus to the unseen and eternal, he is wrought upon by them. He is lifted up to a somewhat kindred plane of life. He is no workman of the present, simply. Like the great artist he trusts his work will live long—yea, he is working for eternity. He has caught a far-off light as a guiding star, and so has something of the conscious power which makes our life noble and strong. He reaches his hand out through the centuries, and generates a line of influence that shall

never end. He is made truer and better by such far-reaching work, and the modest consciousness of this is no small recompense.

And then in the *positive development* of his own life and character, the teacher has a precious reward. We are thinking now of the sincere, earnest, truth-loving, thorough teacher; one who will not attempt to give instruction in the higher things of the divine life, without honest efforts to master its rudiments. And such will receive in giving, in teaching will be taught. The very best way in the world to lead one to the complete mastery of a thought—provided he be sincere and honest—is to give him the task of unfolding it to others. In preparing to open it to them it will open more widely to himself. The very first condition of successful teaching is found here. He who would unfold a thought must be in sympathy therewith; its grandeur or beauty or pathos must have entered into and inspired his own soul. They who would interpret the old masters in song and art, must have their own hearts ravished by their beauties and harmonies. The coal must burn ere it can shine. The nature must glow before it can kindle a responsive heat. He who would, by personal contact and personal teaching, lead others to Christ must be Christly; his own face must gleam, and his own heart throb with the influence of his divine communings. Near the Master's feet must he sit, who would take of the things of Christ and show them unto others.

This, as we have said, is the condition of the most successful teaching. But this is the result of growth, and this growth will come very largely from the effort to lead others into the light. Here then is a recompense. In unfolding the truth to others, many a rich gem of inspiration may be revealed, that had otherwise remained hidden. In telling others of the love and tenderness and beauty of Christ, the teacher's own heart will be made to thrill with the theme, and be transformed by its power. As in studying the beautiful, with a true love for it, we are made beautiful, so in studying and unfolding Christ, with a love for him, are we made Christly. Here comes in God's grand law of remuneration: "Give and it shall be given unto you."

Here we have, perhaps, an answer to the question, "Shall we employ unconverted teachers?" If they are honest and sincere, have no fear for them or their classes; in teaching they will be taught; in leading, will themselves be led. Standing by the fountain, in ministration to others, they will themselves drink unto life eternal.

Looking now at the *objective* recompense of the teacher. We find it in part, in the *direct results* that may be accomplished by his work. I may be speaking to some who have classes in some of our new schools, mission schools, as they are termed; where the boys, some of them, may be rude and boisterous, and some of the girls untidy and indifferent. And the same may be found to some extent in our older schools, that are really doing, in the truest sense, Christ's work, viz: preaching the gospel to the destitute and poor. It is no small reward for the teacher to have the one class become quiet and the other neat, and both respectful and attentive. This result will not be attained at once, but it will come, as a rule, in response to patient, intelligent, loving labor.

And surely it is no slight recompense to be enabled to implant some one or more of God's great truths in the youthful hearts under our care; to teach them to say, with some degree of understanding and love, e. g. "Our Father;" to enable them to grasp somewhat the fact that His sovereignty is not despotism, but Fatherhood; and that this world is not the arena for the combat of blind, impersonal forces, but the rather, that on which He is working out the purposes of His own benign nature.

Or take the thought of Christ's atonement. "What is the best thing you have learned since you came to the Sunday school?" said a teacher to a boy who had long been a member. He thought a moment, and then replied "that the best thing he had learned was that Jesus Christ had come into the world to save sinners." In the implantation of such truths you may be working more grandly than you know. They may be germs of future harvests, the richness of which you cannot compute. Lodged in the mind, they may be yet rocked in the cradle of the heart, and develop into the fruits of righteousness and peace. To teach these is in itself reward. They will not be powerless, for spiritual force does not die any more than does natural force. Sown beside all waters, at morn or eve, both may be alike good, God will watch over it. It shall not return unto Him void. It will tend to build up character; manhood, and womanhood. And when the spirit of God shall come to take possession of the heart, as come in answer to prayer and faith he will, he will have not only a temple to dwell in, but one that can at once be dedicated to the service of man and the glory of Christ.

And then the reward that shall come to the teacher, when he or she has brought their *whole class to the Master*, who shall estimate that? When they have taught so faithfully and lovingly, that the young hearts under their care have opened to the entrance of Him "who is chiefest among ten thousand." When they are able to come, and with gratitude that makes the whole nature tremulous, say "Lord here are our gleanings from thine harvest field. Here are we and those whom thou gavest us." Compared with the recompense that comes at that supreme moment of Christian joy, all worldly honors and kingly station fade into nothingness. And this reward all should seek, and all may have, for have I not read, that "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him?"

But it is on the *other side*, when the partial shall be merged into the complete, that the teacher shall gain the fullness of his recompense. What that reward shall be it is useless for us to surmise, but we know that every aspiration shall be met, and every longing satisfied. We know that no honest word spoken, no honest deed done, no sacrifice offered shall go unrequited.

And in that final distribution of rewards none shall be overlooked. Modest, silent worth will be recognized no less, yea far more, than pretentious glitter. Many of the world's verdicts may be reversed. Many whom we called great may take a low place in the victorious ranks, while the unnoted and unknown, but more Christly worker may be crowned supreme.

And there is one thought regarding our *future recompense* that is especially encouraging to Christian workers. We are surely taught that in proportion to the extent of our Christian building, shall be the triumph of our entrance to our Father's house; and that after our entrance there, we shall in a sense, be rewarded according to our fitness for reward. True greatness of character and true Christliness of life shall count for nothing there, no more than here.

We learn then, that in a sense, we are the architects of our eternal fortunes. The more Christly our labors in earnestness and spirit, the higher our recompense. The more complete our self-sacrifice the more triumphant our coronation; yea, *on* our sacrifice shall be based our coronation.

For we read of Jesus: "He humbled himself, *wherefore* God also hath highly exalted him." We shall reign with him, if so be that we suffer with him.

"O brothers! earnest still aspire,
With energies immortal,
To many a heaven of desire
Our yearning opes a portal,

And tho' age wearies by the way,
And hearts break in the furrow,
We'll sow the golden grain to day,
The harvest comes to-morrow.

Triumph and toil are twins, and aye
Joy suns the cloud of sorrow,
And 'tis the martyrdom to-day
Brings victory to-morrow."

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

I.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Association occurs on the third Tuesday of January, at 2½ o'clock, P. M., according to the Constitution.

II.

It is also provided that "Meetings of the Association shall be held on the *second Tuesday evenings* of May and September, for devotional exercises, and the discussion of subjects bearing on the general interests of the schools."

III.

In adddition to these regular meetings, the EXECUTIVE BOARD desire to hold meetings *monthly*, in the interests of the Sunday School work, and will be glad to make appointments for such meetings in connection with any of the schools of the Association, who may desire. The Board respectfully invite interviews or communications with Superintendents and Pastors in the interest of meetings of this class Address any member of the board or W. M. Shoemaker, Chairman of Committee on Meetings.